

MERCED COUNTY
System Improvement Plan Approval Document
Submitted 9/30/04

Program Areas	Improvement Plan			Anticipated Date of Completion
	*Required		Strategy	
	Yes	No		
Safety:				
•Recurrence of Maltreatment	√		•Develop series of public awareness campaigns on child abuse	9/05
			•Enhance Differential Response	9/05
			•Build staff-level relationships with community partners	7/05
			•Cross-train: CWS, health, education, law enforcement, and community based organizations	9/05
			•Develop parent education model for abusive parents	9/05
			•Develop a treatment facility for substance abuse and family violence	9/05
			•Develop a multidisciplinary forum to staff cases when child is not removed	9/05
			<i>Data reports, Safe Measures and contact with county will be used to monitor progress.</i>	
•Abuse/Neglect in foster care	√		•Recruitment campaign	9/05
			•Develop mentoring and peer support for foster parents	9/05
			•Establish task force to improve communication with foster parents	3/05
			•Feasibility study for receiving home	9/05
			•Train CWS staff: placement options	9/05
			•Train Probation staff on kinship placements	6/05
			•Explore establishing a Placement Unit in Probation	9/05
			<i>Data reports, Safe Measures and contact with county will be used to monitor progress.</i>	
•Timely ER Response (process measure)	√		•Ensure accurate data entry	3/05
			•Establish morale committee to develop means of celebrating positive efforts	5/04
			•Improve staff understanding of the big-picture of CWS	12/04
			•Improve program knowledge of supervisors and managers	9/05
			•Increase administrative support for supervisors	9/05

*The "yes" in the required column represents measures that did not meet the PIP target. The January 2004 and October 2004 county data reports were used.

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Improve supervisory support for staff •Update policies and procedures •Require Core Training for all new SWs •Balance CWS workload 	5/05 3/05 6/05 9/05
			<i>Data reports, Safe Measures and contact with county will be used to monitor progress.</i>	
•Social Worker Visits with child (process measure)	√		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Ensure accurate data entry •Establish morale committee to develop means of celebrating positive efforts •Improve staff understanding of the big-picture of CWS •Improve program knowledge of supervisors and managers •Increase administrative support for supervisors •Improve supervisory support for staff •Update policies and procedures •Require Core Training for all new SWs •Balance CWS workload 	3/05 5/04 12/04 9/05 9/05 5/05 3/05 6/05 9/05
			<i>Data reports, Safe Measures and contact with county will be used to monitor progress.</i>	
Permanency:				
•Time to Reunification		√		
•Time to Adoption		√		
•Placement Stability		√		
•Foster Care re-entry		√		
Well-Being:				
•Preserving family relationships				
•Least Restrictive Placements				
•ICWA Placements				
•ILP			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Develop one-stop youth resource center •Develop system to ensure emancipating youth have important documents •Improve life skills training •Develop transitional home for age 18 and homeless teens •Improve communication & collaboration between CWS and schools •Improve coordination of employment and career services for ages 15 + 	9/05 9/05 9/05 9/05 9/05 9/05

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			<i>Data reports, Safe Measures and contact with county will be used to monitor progress.</i>	
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Systemic				
•Statewide Information System			• Explore providing Probation read-only access to CWS/CMS for cases with dual jurisdiction	6/05
			<i>Contact with county will be used to monitor progress.</i>	
•Case Review System				
•Quality Assurance System			•Improve processing of court documents for Probation	6/05
			<i>Contact with county will be used to monitor progress.</i>	
•Training			•Improve staff understanding of the big-picture of CWS	9/05
			•Improve program knowledge of supervisors and managers	12/04
			•Develop a method for making and communicating policy changes	3/05
			•Disseminate meeting notes	3/05
			•Update policies and procedures	6/05
			•Require Core Training for all new SWs	7/05
			•Establish reduced caseloads for staff in training	8/05
			•Establish systems review committee	12/04
			<i>Data reports, Safe Measures and contact with county will be used to monitor progress.</i>	
•Service Array			•Expand interventions that are alternatives to incarceration for Probation youth	9/05
			•Identify best practices and new programs for Probation	9/05
			•Develop community programs for youth involved in delinquent lifestyle	9/05
			•Explore mental health resources for Probation youth	9/05
			•Develop system for Probation/CWS dual jurisdiction	9/05
			•Explore establishing a Children's Assessment Center for Probation status offenders (601) and CWS youth	9/05
			•Explore establishing a Family Court	9/05

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			•Explore juvenile hall expansion	9/05
			<i>Data reports, Safe Measures and contact with county will be used to monitor progress.</i>	
•Agency Responsiveness to the Community				
•Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment and Retention				

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